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richest measure in the Bronx the parkway. It is not merely ornamental to hint that the Bronx has been an exposed frontier; it was at some inexactly determined spot within its present urban borders that the good Anne Hutchinson fell a victim to the savage marauder. Even in his generally satisfactory treatment of the waterways the author falls into slips of carelessness, as on page 177 where he confuses the Harlem with the East River. In the period after the Revolution he leaves the topographic method and studies development principally by means of the civic factor. Settlement is best studied in topography, confusion is the inevitable result of essaying the comprehension of the village and the town with neglect of the geographical essentials of the region out of which they grow. Yet, despite the defect of method in this part of the work the author has succeeded remarkably well in exhibiting the borough, particularly the region nearest the Sound, as a frontier of discordant settlement. His narrative makes plain the irritation caused by the invasion of Yankees from New England and their success in obtaining a foothold in Westchester, a species of provincial jealousy familiar in the works of Irving and Cooper. The work is abundantly illustrated, intelligently indexed for reference, and will serve an excellent end as the compendium of all the information as to Bronx settlement than can be desired by students of history. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The American Mediterranean. By Stephen Bonsal. xiv and 488 pp. Maps, ill., index. Moffat, Yard & Co., New York, 1912. \$3. 8½ x 6.

This book is written almost wholly from the political and historical standpoint and it covers the important islands of the West Indies, the Spanish Main, Mexico and the Isthmus. The author hopes apparently to awaken a larger interest in these neighboring lands among the American people and he attempts to point out the potential advantages of many of the islands which will follow the opening of the canal. - With an awakened interest must come at the same time a larger amount of concern because of the strange practices and incendiary motives which form the basis of the education of many of the dwellers of the islands. In the rough, the story of Alexis Nord, Castro and Diaz are known, but the author has written for us the background without which any judgment must be opinionated. Many Americans will read with surprise and likely with horror the accounts of voodooism as it is practiced at our gates. An important chapter of the book, "The Usufruct of the West Indies," estimates the commercial value of the sugar, bananas, cotton and cacao crops of the islands, and the author cites the German commercial growth among the West Indies as worthy of our study and rivalry. The value of the book for historical studies is increased by the inclusion of many state papers in the appendix. ROBERT M. BROWN.

SOUTH AMERICA

Through South America. By Harry Weston Van Dyke. With an introduction by John Barrett. xxiv and 446 pp. Map, ill., index. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1912. \$2. 8½ x 6.

A long historical sketch—nearly one-fourth of the entire volume—shows the author's appreciation of the interest which (for the people of the United States, at least—and at last) all parts of South America unquestionably possess. The course of stirring events in South American history is traced from the age of discovery to the battle of Ayacucho and the close of the struggle for the liberation of Spanish continental dependencies in the New World. Then follow chapters describing Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, and the Guianas. These descriptive chapters deal with topics so numerous—products, climate, topography, manners, customs, etc.—that it would be unfair to expect uniform merit in all of the views advanced. The book is pleasantly written and attractively illustrated. That premised, it becomes easier for us to admit that we have read with surprise, what is said in regard to the "Chileno" on page 314, and with astonishment what is said on page 351, about the healthfulness of Cuzco.